

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-11 /079 W

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R 091313Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 93

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS US

SUBJECT: RABIN REPORTS TO CABINET ON US VISIT--PRESS ANALYSIS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO ISRAEL PRESS, RABIN TOLD CABINET FEBRUARY 8 THAT U.S. AND ISRAEL HAD EXAMINED VARIETY OF NEGOTIATING VHTIONS BUT NO FIRM DECISION ON NEXT NEGOTIATING STEP HAD BEEN TAKEN. IN ADDITION TO JORDANIAN OPTION, HE SAID ISRAEL WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER IN RETURN FOR DECLARATIONS OF NON-BELLIGERENCY ADDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI TO EL ARISH-RAS MOHAMMED LINE IN SINAI AND MORE THAN COSMETIC WITHDRAWAL ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. RABIN TRIED TO DEFUSE TENSIONS OVER "AFFAIR OF THE ARMS SUPPLY LIVST," , AND PERES MADE FIRM DEFENCE OF MOD/IDF PROCEDURES. ATMOSPHERE AT EIGHT-HOUR MEETING WAS OCCASIONALLY TENSE AND ACRIMONIOUS. END SUMMARY.

1. US-ISRAEL RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU AND WALLFISH) RABIN REPORTED THAT "ISRAEL AND US SAW FUTURE POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES ON LARGELY SIMILAR LINES...REFERRING TO A COMMON RESOLVE TO THWART SOVIET DESIGNS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AS REFLECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THROUGH SYRIA AND THE PLO. RABIN ADDED THAT THE US

WOULD LIKE THE PARTIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE TO ENVISAGE 'COMPREHENSIVE RATHER THAN INTERIM, SOLUTIONS.'" THE RECALLING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WITHOUT THE PLO, COULD LEAD IN THIS DIRECTION, RABIN TOLD THEJ MINISTERS, BUT OTHER AVENUES COULD ALSO BE PROPOSED..." VYEDIOT (ZIMUKI) ADDED THAT RABIN BELIEVES US IS NOT EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY FLAREUP IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN 1976...AND IS WORRIED ABOUT ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES. THEREFORE, ALL THEIR EFFORTS ARE AIMED AT PREVENTING A WAR BY POLITICAL ACTIVITY. RABIN REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT ADMINISTRATION LEADERS IN WASHINGTON WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH A FLAREUP DOES NOT FALL ON ISRAEL. ZIMUKI ADDS THAT RABIN HAS EMPHASIZED THAT "NOW, FOLLOWING HIS VISIT, A MAXIMUM COORDINATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION WAS REACHED REGARDING THE NEXT STEPS OF EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS SETTLEMENTS WITH THE NEIGHBORING STATES..."

2. NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS. ON FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES RABIN REPORTEDLY TOLD CABINET THAT "THE AMERICANS THINK THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES TO ADVANCE SETTLEMENTS WITH SYRIA AND JORDAN." (YEDIOT-ZIMUKI) JORDANIAN SUBJECT WAS RAISED IN WASHINGTON ONLY IN A LIMITED WAY. ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST, "MINISTERS AGREED THAT WOULD BE UNWISE TO HINGE TOO MUCH ON THE 'JORDANIAN OPTION', BUT THE DOVES AMONG THEM (ALLON, ZADOK, RABINOWITZ, OFER, YADLIN) EMPHASIZED--OVER NRP PROTESTS-- THAT THE COALITION AGREEMENT GAVE THE CABINET FREEDOM OF MANEUVER AS REGARDS THIS OPTION, AS LONG AS THE ACTUAL SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT IS PRECEDED BY ELECTIONS..." YEDIOT (ZIMUKI) AND DAVAR (BLOCK-RUBENSTEIN) REPORT THAT RABIN HAD CLARIFIED TO FORD AND KISSINGER THAT ISRAEL WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA IN WHICH IN RETURN FOR NON-BELLIGERENCY, ISRAEL WOULD BE READY TO WITHDRAW: A) ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT TO THE RAS-MOHAMMED - EL-ARISH LINE...AND B) ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS FOR MODIFICATIONS GREATER THAN 'COSMETIC' CHANGES.

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3. THE AFFAIR OF THE ARMS SUPPLY LISTS. RABIN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HAD MEANT NO SLIGHT TO PERES WHEN HE CRITICIZED "EXAGGERATED" ARMS LISTS. JERUSALEM POST REPORTS THAT RABIN POINTED OUT THAT "HE HAD MADE THE CRITICISM IN THE FIRST PERSON PLURAL--THUS INVOLVING HIMSELF TOO IN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LISTS... PERES DID NOT ENTIRELY ACCEPT RABIN'S EXPLANATIONS...

ACCORDING TO MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, THE ISSUE WILL PROBABLY DIE DOWN FOLLOWING TODAY'S (FEBRUARY 9) KNESSET DEBATE. PERES, WHO SPOKE FOR AN HOUR, DESCRIBED AT GREAT LENGTH THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN DRAWING UP THE ARMS REQUEST LISTS AND CHARACTERIZED RABIN'S REMARKS AS UNFOUNDED AND UNFAIR. JERUSALEM POST ADDS THAT "PERES PRAISED THE ARMY AND DEFENSE MINISTRY TEAMS WHO HAD PREPARED THE LISTS. ISRAEL MUST STAND UP TO THE PENTAGON HE URGED--NOT CAVE IN AND SUPPLY THE PENTAGON WITH ARGUMENTS TO RESIST ISRAEL'S REQUESTS... THE TREND OF THE DEBATE DID NOT GO ENTIRELY IN RABIN'S FAVOR. A NUMBER OF MINISTERS SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT CONVINCED BY RABIN'S EXPLANATION OF THE NEED, AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, TO REVISE THE ORIGINAL WEAPONS PURCHASING LIST SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER..."  
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